THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No. Sir. However, certain amount of handicap is possible.

(b) The Port Trust has sent a proposal for recruitment of additional staff, which is under active consideration of the Government.

News-item regarding river waters unfit for drinking

989. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "13 river waters unfit for drinking" as reported in the Pioneer dated 20th October, 1995;

(b) if so, whether as per-feasibility findings by National River Action Plan, the water of most of the rivers in the country is polluted; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make the rivers pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Government has launched the 'National River Conservation Plan' in July, 1995 as a centrally sponsored scheme on equal cost sharing basis on capital works between the Central and the State Governments at an estimated outlay of Rs. 772 crores to be spread over a period of ten years. Under the plan, the city sewage of the identified towns shall be intercepted, diverted and treated before discharge into the river besides taking up works of low cost sanitation, improved wood based crematoria, river front development and solid waste disposal. Public participation shall be sought through voluntary organisations/Non-Governmental Organisations and by constituting citizens monitoring committees in each town.

Telephone Facilities in Chittor District of Andhra Pradesh

990. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any programme to expand telecom facilities in Chittor district in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of new lines proposed to be opened in Chittor district in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the details of expansion of telephone lines are as per Statement (*See* below). The number of new lines being planned to meet the waiting list as on 31.3.1996 are subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

Statement

Tentative plan for Chittor District in Andhra Pradesh for 1996-97

S.No.	Place	Expansion/ Addition of telephone lines
1.	Chittor	2000
2.	Ekambarakuppam	400
3.	Kuppam	576
4.	Mandanapalli	1168
5.	Pakala	520
6.	Piler	424
7.	Punganur	464